

What is claimed is:

1. An information collecting system comprising:

at least one terminal including an information input device,
an information display unit and a communication circuit; and
5 an information processing center that is connected to said
terminal via a network, and includes an application server, said
application server including:

a receiving section for receiving input information
transmitted from said terminal to said information processing
10 center via the network;

an information processing section for making a
decision as to the information received, and for constructing
a picture to be displayed on the terminal in response to a decision
result; and

15 a transmitting section for transmitting the picture
generated by said information processing section to said
terminal.

2. The information collecting system according to claim 1,
20 wherein said information processing center further comprises a
database server, a file server and a WWW server, and wherein said
information processing section in said application server
carries out information processing by exchanging information
with these servers.

3. The information collecting system according to claim 2,
wherein said terminal comprises a circuit for detecting power-on
of the terminal, and for automatically activating said
communication circuit to transmit power-on information to said
30 information processing center.

4. The information collecting system according to claim 3, wherein said receiving section of said application server receives the power-on information sent from said terminal via the network; said information processing section of said application server generates an initial picture of the terminal in response to the information received; and said transmitting section in said application server transmits the initial picture to the terminal.

5. The information collecting system according to claim 2, wherein said information processing section of said application server comprises a client application memory for storing in advance necessary information including identifying information of a user; and a client display screen constructor for constructing a client display picture from the necessary information read out of said client application memory and information supplied from other servers.

6. The information collecting system according to claim 5, wherein said application server further comprises a client display picture storage for storing the client display picture generated by said client display screen constructor; and a differential detector for detecting a difference between the client display picture stored in said client display picture storage and a client display picture newly generated by said client display screen constructor, and wherein said transmitting section transmits only differential information detected by said differential detector to said terminal.

7. The information collecting system according to claim 6, wherein said terminal comprises a picture combiner for combining the differential information sent from said transmitting section with picture information currently displayed by the terminal.

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8. The information collecting system according to claim 2, wherein said terminal is connected to a LAN (Local Area Network), and said LAN is connected to said network.

10 9. The information collecting system according to claim 8, further comprising a local server connected between said LAN and said network, wherein said local server includes a database server, a file server, a WWW server and an application server for carrying out information processing using information
15 exchanged with these servers, and wherein said local server performs a processing associated with predetermined requested information in the information transmitted from said terminal, and transmits a processing result to said terminal, whereas said local server transmits remaining requested information to said
20 information processing center via said network without processing the remaining requested information.

10. The information collecting system according to claim 1, wherein said information processing center carries out
25 processing associated with predetermined requested information in the information transmitted from said terminal, and transmits remaining requested information to another information processing center via said network without processing the remaining requested information.

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11. The information collecting system according to claim 9, wherein said application server in said local server comprises at least one of a word processing application and a spreadsheet application.

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12. A terminal unit comprising:

an information input device with a function of converting input information to transmitted information;

10 a communication circuit for transmitting the transmitted information to an information processing center via a network, and for receiving a signal sent from the information processing center via the network;

a screen constructor for converting the received signal into a display signal;

15 a display device for displaying the display signal; and a circuit for detecting power-on of said terminal, and for automatically starting said communication circuit to transmit power-on information to said information processing center.